

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) An agent ~~for reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction~~ comprising a hemagglutinating virus of Japan (HVJ)-envelope vector, wherein the agent ~~the HVJ-envelope vector~~ comprises:

an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor protein ~~and a hemagglutinating virus of Japan (HVJ)-envelope~~ enclosed within an HVJ-envelope; and is free of liposome.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously presented) The agent of claim 1, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

4 - 5. (Canceled)

6. (Currently amended) A method for reducing an infarcted area of a cerebral infarction comprising:

administering an agent comprising ~~an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor protein and an HVJ-envelope~~ vector by direct injection into the subarachnoid space of a subject prior to the occurrence of said cerebral infarction, wherein said HVJ-envelope vector comprises:

an isolated nucleic acid encoding a hepatocyte growth factor protein enclosed within an HVJ-envelope; and

is free of liposome;

wherein said method results in a reduction of the infarcted area.

7 - 11. (Canceled)

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the agent is in the form of a tablet, pill, sugar-coated tablet, capsule, liquid gel, ointment, syrup, slurry, or suspension.

13. (Currently Amended) The ~~method~~ agent of claim 1, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor protein is a human hepatocyte growth factor protein.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein the hepatocyte growth factor protein is a human hepatocyte growth factor protein.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6, wherein direct injection into the subarachnoid space comprises direct injection into a cisternal space.